

Monroe County's Powder Mills Park

Trail Information

Hatchery Trail

This trail is a moderate 0.8 mile walk with one challenging section if you are on skis, where the trail narrows and passes through red pine trees. The trail is through woods of oak, maple, hickory, hop hornbeam, American hornbeam (the trunks that look like gray sinewy muscles), black cherry, locust, and pine trees. A highlight of this trail is the large field full of milkweed, which is a favorite of Monarch butterflies. In late summer, the goldenrods bloom. Keep a look out for hawks circling high overhead.

Daffodil Meadow Trail

This trail is an easy 0.7 mile walk (one way) over gently rolling terrain. It is especially beautiful in early spring when the Daffodil Meadow is in bloom on or about May 1. As you walk the woodland trail of American hornbeam, maple, hickory, basswood, oak and hickory trees, look for the many seasonal wildflowers along the way. Listen for frogs, toads and other wetland creatures as you pass the spring ponds. A highlight of this trail is a large field filled with wildflowers in mid-August that butterflies love, such as: Joe-Pye-weed, boneset, vetch, woodland sunflowers, snakeroot, Queen Anne's lace, and thistle.

Ridge Trail

This is a moderate 0.4 mile (one way) trail over gently rolling terrain, with a climb to the ridge. You can connect with the Trillium Trail to make a loop. One of the highlights of the trail is the interpretative display by the water wheel near the Wadhams Lodge parking lot. This display details the layout and some of the history of the Powder Mills for which the park is named. At the top of the ridge, be sure and take the trail to the west to the overlook. Here you will be looking west for miles in the distance. This trail and overlook are gorgeous in the fall. While you are on this section of the trail, notice the stone steps and myrtle wildflowers that are all that remains of the tenant house that once stood on this site. As you walk the ridge, look on the east side of the trail for remains of a fireplace. The Rand estate with 23 rooms and home to D.C. Rand, one of the founders of the Powder Mills, once stood here. Relatives of D.C. Rand lived here until 1935.

The trail itself passes through woods of oak, maple, and sassafras trees. These trees and the overlook view make

this a great fall hike. Hemlock trees add a touch of evergreen in winter.

Please do not try to descend the steep sections at the ends of the ridge. Either return the way you came, or take the trails to the Trillium Trail to make a loop.

Trillium Trail

This trail is a beautiful 0.5 mile easy walk (one way) over level to gently rolling terrain. You can easily connect with the Ridge trail to make a loop. As you pass along the wetlands look for spring wildflowers such as skunk cabbage and mayapples. There are a variety of ferns, scouring rushes, witch-hazel and alder shrubs, and a variety of seasonal wildflowers. The maple, American beech, sassafras and American hornbeam trees make this a great fall foliage hike. The hem-lock trees help make this a beautiful winter trail.

Powder Horn Trail

This trail is an easy 0.6 mile walk over gently rolling terrain with some small hills. A section of the trail opens into a large field with ragweed and other wildflowers. You will pass through woods of maple, oak, tulip, hickory, black cherry and aspen trees. You may also want to make a short diversion west to overlook Irondequoit Creek.

Southern Trails

These unmarked trails south of Woolston Road are moderate to challenging with narrow ledges and steep side. These are beautiful in any season of the year. In spring, look for a variety of wildlife and wildflowers as you pass along the wetlands. A highlight is the field right near the parking area that abounds with August wildflowers such as Joe-Pye-weed, and goldenrods. This field is a favorite area to spot butterflies because of the variety of nectar and larval plants they are attracted to. Look for hawks soaring overhead. The trail follows through woods of wildflowers, a large variety of ferns, and flowering shrubs including witch-hazel. Oak, hickory, beech, sassafras, hop hornbeam, and hornbeam trees some nearly 100 feet high shade the trail and make this a cool hike on hot summer days and a beautiful fall hike. In winter, evergreen trees such as spruce and white pine form a canopy overhead. Please respect the private property signs and stay on the designated trail.

If you have rented a Lodge...

Stop at the Park Office on Courduroy Road and pick up the key from the entrance of the office.

If you have rented a Shelter...

A park guard will stop by to check your permit.

Powder Mills Park Hours and Rules

Powder Mills Park is open everyday from 6:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. The shelters and lodges are reserved by calling 256-4950 and are available from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 p.m. daily. Our County Parks are Carry-In Carry-Out. Please take all garbage with you to dispose of after you leave. Keg Beer is permitted if stamped on your rental permit. Recreation fields are available on a first come / first serve basis if the fields are not in league use. Pets must be leashed. Bicycles are not allowed on trails.

Trails are multiple use, unless noted otherwise. Enjoy walking, running, horseback riding and cross-country skiing. Please be aware of seasonal changes in trail conditions and be prepared for natural environment such as mosquitoes and poison ivy in some areas.

